

Horse Advisory Task Force - Survey of Equine Issues

Department	Issue	Optimum Result	Most Knowledgeable Person as Key Contact	Advisory Committee Topic (Y/N?)
Equine Licensing				
Animal Services	No census of equines in the City.	Campaign to expand licensing coordinated as a census activity with clear benefits to equine owners.	Jan Selder 818-837-2609	Y
Animal Services	Equine License Fee does not provide a clear benefit to equine owners.	Develop method for public input and oversight of usage of funds generated from fee; or, develop new programs to give value for fee (newsletters, emergency notification system, etc.) dependent on collecting sufficient fees to fund.	Jan Selder 818-837-2609	Y
Animal Services	Equine License Fee is not cost effective to collect (entire \$14 goes to special fund).	Increase fee with a portion to the general fund to offset collection and administration costs.	John Forland 213-482-9554	Y
Resource Needs				
EMD	Increase resources to handle equines in the event of a disaster.	Use a portion of any increased equine fees or other funding sources to expand capability to house, feed and care for pets, service animals, equines and other owned animals at temporary disaster shelter or sites.	TBD Temporary Keith Garcia 213 473-9932	N
RAP	Management and Maintenance: New Maintenance Staff Positions needed (Excludes Griffith)	Salary Total needed: \$251,540.00 annually	Ken Novak 818-756-8189	N
RAP	Management and Maintenance: Materials & Supplies	Mostly fencing repairs and D.G. \$80,000 annually	Ken Novak 818-756-8189	N
RAP	Management and Maintenance: Contractual Services	Brush clearance, gates, step overs, etc. \$15,000 annually	Ken Novak 818-756-8189	N
RAP	Management and Maintenance: Vehicular Equipment	\$556,000 (1 time purchase) More \$\$\$ if have to go to biofuel.	Ken Novak 818-756-8189	N
RAP	Management and Maintenance: Guidelines and Service Levels	Define base line level of maintenance service. Develop written policy for inspection and maintenance. Establish documentation procedure for inspections.	TBD Temporary Tom Gibson 213 928-9106	N
Planning and Coordination				
RAP	Mapping	Establish mapping guidelines: elements to map, GSP map coordinates at ___feet on-center along trail. On-going updates to map. Mapping hazards. User-friendly method or program to accurately report and pinpoint hazards.	TBD Temporary Tom Gibson 213 928-9106	N

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RAP	Effective communication about equestrian issues	Utilize a standardized terminology for equine related subjects (Riding and Hiking Trails, etc.). Establish City equine trails website for public info, outreach, and safety alerts.	TBD Temporary Tom Gibson 213 928-9106	Y
Planning/RAP/ Public Works/ DOT/DBS	Agency Coordination	Identify and establish responsible parties for City trails program (RAP, Planning, BOE, etc). Utilize consistent standards across jurisdictions where possible (County, Mountain Recreation Conservancy, etc.). Develop land use agreements with Utilities. Establish code authority to inspect and enforce trail standards. Coordinate efforts to identify and successfully compete for grant funds for trails projects.	TBD Temporary Tom Gibson (RAP) 213 928-9106 Emily Yllescas (Planning) 818-374-5058	N
RAP	Funding	Identify funding opportunities. Recognition of trails as a Public Facility. Develop procedure to partner with non-profits and private industry to get funding. Develop method for the equitable distribution of funds/resources across council district lines.	TBD Temporary Tom Gibson 213 928-9106	Y
RAP/ Planning	Amend/Update Community Plans	Incorporate specific goals, policies, and implementation strategies into the plans & update the Community Plan Maps to reflect where trails exist, the type of trail it is, and where we could potentially locate and build future trail connections. Unite 15 community plans (in the Valley) and between council districts, coalescing the equine needs and desires of the community, identifying linkages between existing trails, identifying access points to trails, establishing trail network as part of overall transportation system. Look to successful community models to emulate (eg. San Diego County).	TBD Temporary Tom Gibson (RAP) 213 928-9106 Emily Yllescas (Planning) 818-374-5058	Y
Planning	Update the Hiking & Equestrian Trails Plan	Amend the language to read "Recreational" trails as opposed to "Equestrian"; Assess the trail system City-wide by analyzing trail needs, planning opportunities, implementation methods, management structures and funding.	Emily Yllescas 818-374-5058	Y

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Planning	Amend/Update the Transportation Element	Incorporate trail guidelines in the non-motorized section of the plan, including appropriate signage & signalization at major intersections where horses cross. Develop a missing link strategy to connect trails.	Emily Yllescas 818-374-5058	Y
Planning	Amend/Update the Conservation Element	To take into account sustainability & preservation of the historic K-land uses.	Emily Yllescas 818-374-5058	Y
RAP/ Planning	Rim of the Valley	Clearly depict on the City-Wide trail map and on the Community Plan maps where the connections should be. Sort out the sprawling Rim of the Valley trail project into defined subjects for community meetings and design charrettes.	TBD Temporary Tom Gibson (RAP) 213 928-9106 Emily Yllescas (Planning) 818-374-5058	Y
Planning	Subdivision/Entitlement	Conditions placed on projects should have a time specified by which trails should be in place. Revise subdivision conditions to implement horsekeeping requirements of Specific Plans.	Emily Yllescas 818-374-5058	N
RAP	Easements	Review/adjust standard trail easement requirements	TBD Temporary Tom Gibson 213 928-9106	N
Planning/DBS	Legal Non-Conforming Issues	Related to barns built prior to the establishment of a K-Supplemental Use District; Work with DBS to create a simple standard for barns to address the legal non-conforming issue - a chart of setbacks & procedures for deviation from setback requirements.	Emily Yllescas 818-374-5058	N
Planning/DBS	Standard Barn Size	An 8'x8' structure is exempt from needing a building permit but is too small & unhealthy for the horse. It is difficult/expensive for an applicant who wants to build an appropriate sized barn (12'x12' or larger); Need clear standard for U-type occupancies.	Emily Yllescas 818-374-5058	N
Planning/DBS	Distance issue in the Code	Legal non-conforming distances; DCP/DBS need to develop a simple deviation process (so a variance could be avoided)	Emily Yllescas 818-374-5058	N

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Trail Building and Trail Safety				
RAP	Trail Design	Establish requisite trail engineering standards to include grading and drainage, materials and siting guidelines. Design and adopt new set of standard designs and specifications for: trail types, signage and placement of signage/markers (including warning signage for traffic, environmentally sensitive areas, natural hazards such as snakes, mountain lions, etc), staging areas, equine camps, arenas, rest areas, fencing and gates, step overs, water troughs, bridges, tunnels, drainage systems, traffic signal buttons, etc.	TBD Temporary Tom Gibson 213 928-9106	N
RAP	Streamline Trail Construction	Develop trails consultant list for project design/ build. Acquire current trail construction costs for estimating purposes.	TBD Temporary Tom Gibson 213 928-9106	N
RAP	Trail Safety and Liability	Identify areas of liability, how to mitigate, and get City Attorney's approval. Resolve conflicting safety usage (motor bikes/horses etc.), Procedure for accident and injury reporting and documentation. Set standardized/non-conflicting trail names adopted to help accurately report user accidents and other on-trail problems. Signage to mark trail problems that can't be fixed (fallin rocks hazard, vehicles on trails, etc.)	TBD Temporary Tom Gibson 213 928-9106	N
RAP	Volunteer Program	Utilize volunteer user groups for inspection/reporting and where possible -maintenance and repair. Develop a program information center as part of website.	TBD Temporary Tom Gibson 213 928-9106	Y
Manure				
Sanitation	City collection of residential horse manure	Create a list of all brown can users serviced by Sanitation	Bernadette Halverson 213-485-3634	Y
Sanitation	Manure Disposal	Investigate cost effective methods to manage horse manure produced by commercial barn owners or private horse owners.	Bernadette Halverson 213-485-3634	Y

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EDWARD A. BOKS
GENERAL MANAGER

September 18, 2008

Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Chair
Arts, Parks, Health And Aging Committee
C/o Office of the City Clerk
City Hall Room 395

Attention: Erika Pulst, Legislative Assistant

Re: Establishing a Horse Advisory Task Force, CF 07-4097

Dear Honorable Members:

On February 19, 2008, the City Council approved the communication from your Committee relative to a Motion made by Councilmember Wendy Greuel, and seconded by Councilmembers Alaron and Smith, to establish a Horse Advisory Task Force for the City of Los Angeles. The Department of Animal Services was initially assigned to lead that effort, which was to include representatives from the Department of Recreation and Parks, Bureau of Sanitation, Department of Planning, City Administrative Officer, and Chief Legislative Analyst, as well as other Council District offices.

Since that approval, Animal Services has worked closely with staff of Councilmember Greuel's office, met with City staff as directed in the Motion, and solicited issues statements from throughout the City. The latter has resulted in compilation of a comprehensive matrix of equestrian-related issues in our City, "Survey of Equine Issues."

As a result of this background and research phase, we recommend that the Council consider creating a Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee modeled on the successful Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) formed in 1974 by Mayor Tom Bradley. Like the BAC does on bicycling issues, an Equine Advisory Committee (EAC) would work with City Departments to address equine issues in the City of Los Angeles. The EAC would also be comprised of members appointed by each of the Councilmembers and the Mayor. They would have regular meetings with public involvement and use a sub-committee system to focus on key issues.

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The EAC could begin by reviewing the compiled equine issues in the "Survey of Equine Issues," attached, and selecting or setting priority for committee topics. The lead Department identified in the "Survey" chart would support the EAC in learning about and processing actions relative to the issues.

The various horse-related issues in the City fall into five general categories: Licensing, Resource Needs, Planning, Trails, and Manure. Much work is ahead to achieve the relative accomplishments of the BAC, which include input and implementation assistance on the City' Bicycle Plan. Bicycle services and information in the City include bikeway standards, safety information, maps, and special events. Horse owners in the City will be well served by an EAC which addresses the type of issues that the BAC has worked on, and if the City can provide the level of service and information which exists today for bicycle riders.

Review of the various issues also reveals the multi-Department nature of equestrian issues, in contrast to the logic of having Department of Transportation as lead Department for bicycle issues. Horses are living things subject to licensing, census, and waste generation, in addition to presenting many planning, maintenance, land use, design, and safety issues. The Committee may wish to consider the information on the "Survey," in determining the lead Department to assist the EAC. As previously mentioned, all effected Departments would need to provide support for the particular issues in which they were most involved.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Task Force Chair, Captain Jan Selder, at 818-837-2609, or by e-mail, or Assistant General Manager for Administration, Linda Barth, at 213-482-9558, if you have additional questions. We look forward to working in partnership with other City Departments and the equine community to proceed with an Equine Advisory Committee.

Very truly yours,



EDWARD R. BOKS
General Manager

Attachment

Cc: Andrew A. Adelman, Building and Safety
James G. Featherstone, Emergency Preparedness
S. Gail Goldberg, Planning
Jon K. Mukri, Recreation and Parks
Enrique C. Zaldivar, Bureau of Sanitation
Jim Dantona
Linda J. Barth
Kathleen J. Davis
Jan Selder